



NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2008

Multi-state mobilization along US 40 corridor to target unrestrained motorists during nighttime hours

Indianapolis, IN. – The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) and the Ohio Department of Public Safety today announced that law enforcement agencies from Indiana and Ohio will participate in a unique traffic safety effort that will kick off the May 16-June 1 “Click It or Ticket” enforcement mobilization in both states.

This special effort referred to as “RACCE” (Reducing Auto Crashes Through Corridor Enforcement), will take place along the U.S. 40 corridor with an emphasis on increasing seat belt usage during nighttime hours. U.S. 40 was the site of the first recorded traffic fatality in Ohio, in 1835, along the National Road near Norwich, in the eastern portion of the state.

On Friday, May 16 from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., 61 patrol units from 17 Indiana law enforcement agencies will saturate 156 continuous miles of the state’s highway to detect motorists who still choose not to buckle up. That equates to one officer for every 2.55 miles.

“Since the lack of seat belt use during nighttime hours appears to be a problem that many states face, I am grateful for the support that Ohio is lending in our efforts to impact behavioral change among those motorists who think they go unnoticed just because the sun goes down,” said Neil Moore, executive director of ICJI.

Indiana’s seat belt enforcement efforts will span eight counties, while Ohio’s enforcement efforts will consist of eight law enforcement agencies that will cover approximately 40 miles of U.S. 40 from the Indiana border in Preble County, through Montgomery County, near Dayton.

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This stretch of U.S. 40 carries some of the highest traffic volumes, with more than 10,000 vehicles per day at the Indiana border and more than 20,000 vehicles per day near Dayton. In addition to seat belt enforcement, Ohio agencies will also concentrate on enforcing child restraint and impaired driving laws and speed violations.

According to the 2007 Indiana Occupant Protection Fact Sheet, overall observed seat belt usage rates have increased from a low of 62.1 percent in 2000, to a high of 88.4 percent in 2007, statewide. On U.S. Highway 40 alone there were an estimated 2137 collisions in 2007, seven of which resulted in fatal injury. Another 570 crashes resulted in non-fatal injury, while 1560 collisions caused costly property damage.

“Research has shown that seat belt use is the single most effective way to prevent death and injury while traveling in a motor vehicle. Clearly, as we work together, I am confident that we can have a much greater impact in saving lives in both Indiana and Ohio,” Moore added.

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